

**In the Claims:**

We claim:

1-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended)      A method for characterizing prostate cancer in a subject, comprising:

- a)      providing a biopsy tissue sample from a subject, wherein said subject has been diagnosed with prostate cancer; and
- b)      characterizing said biopsy tissue sample by detecting the presence or absence of HIP1 in said sample with a nucleic acid probe configured to hybridize to a HIP1 nucleic acid sequence consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said absence of HIP1 in said sample is indicative of one or more of properties of said cancer selected from the group consisting of PSA recurrence and recurrence free survival.

25. (previously presented)      The method of Claim 24, wherein said sample is tumor tissue.

26. (previously presented)      The method of Claim 24, wherein said sample is biopsy tissue.

27. (original)      The method of Claim 24, wherein said detecting HIP1 comprises detecting the presence of HIP1 mRNA.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented)      The method of Claim 24, wherein said detecting the presence of HIP1 mRNA comprises a detection assay selected from the group

consisting of a Northern blot, in situ hybridization, reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction, and microarray analysis.

30-35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37-83. (canceled)

84. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said reagent is configured to detect an ENTH deletion mutant of said HIP1.

85. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said reagent is configured to detect SEQ ID NO:4.

86. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said reagent is configured to detect an ENTH domain of said HIP1.

87-90. (canceled)

91. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, wherein said reagent is configured to detect an ENTH deletion mutant of said HIP1.

92. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, wherein said reagent is configured to detect SEQ ID NO:4.

93. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, wherein said reagent is configured to detect an ENTH domain of said HIP1.

94. (canceled)

95. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said probe is a primer.